



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)

## CHURCH AT HOME

### Announcements

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for November 21, 2021, celebrating Christ the King.

Pastor Mike is currently on a medical leave of absence. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jack Dressler - **519-250-7210**.

Christmas Eve Service – There will be one service at 8pm. If you are interested in attending, please call the office (519-977-7787) and provide your name and the number of people that are planning to attend.

Thank you again for your support for Trinity. Please continue to mail in cheques, or drop them off in the church's mailbox or make your donation either through PAR or through the Donate button on the church's website, at "[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)".

### Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you!**

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### First Reading: **Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**

*To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the*

*oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.*

<sup>9</sup>As I watched,  
thrones were set in place,  
and an Ancient One took his throne,  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames,  
and its wheels were burning fire.

<sup>10</sup>A stream of fire issued  
and flowed out from his presence.  
A thousand thousands served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.  
The court sat in judgment,  
and the books were opened.

<sup>13</sup>As I watched in the night visions,  
I saw one like a human being  
coming with the clouds of heaven.  
And he came to the Ancient One  
and was presented before him.

<sup>14</sup>To him was given dominion  
and glory and kingship,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not pass away,  
and his kingship is one  
that shall never be destroyed.

**Psalm: PSALM 93**

*Ever since the world began, your throne has been established.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

<sup>2</sup>**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;  
you are from everlasting.**

<sup>3</sup>The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;  
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup>**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,  
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

<sup>5</sup>Your testimonies are very sure,  
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

**Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8**

*The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.*

<sup>4b</sup>Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Gospel Reading: John 18:33-37**

*In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.*

<sup>33</sup>Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests

have handed you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup>Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The Sermon: Christ the King Sunday – John 18: 33-37*

Today we bring the church year to a close. The entire church year has almost played out and we have been leading to this day. It's like a sports season being played out for the finals where a champion will be determined. We have the Stanley Cup which the victorious NHL team holds high and parades around the ice surface amidst the other celebrations. Most of us as Canadians have witnessed this celebration at some point. For us here in the church, the season has been played out and you might say that today is the finals. Although you likely won't see anyone running from the pews to tackle the pastor in celebration.....at least I hope it would be in the mood of celebration, today is the championship day in the church year. You might be thinking to yourself, "well what about Easter? Isn't Easter the most special day in the church year?" If you are thinking that, you have a point. And then others might say, "and then there is Christmas. Isn't that also a very special day in our church year?" If you are thinking that, you also have a point. These are truly special days in our church year, but the way that the calendar is designed leads to this day, the final day in our year. And this day is also a very special one to consider because by the end of this service the church calendar will have come full circle.

It begins with Advent where we prepare for the birth of Jesus and the celebration of his birth at Christmas. And then his appearances....to the wise men, at the wedding, in the transfiguration at Epiphany, and then he sets his face toward Jerusalem and we are plunged into the days of Lent, suffering, sacrifice and self-denial, the betrayal and death of holy week, the silence of Holy Saturday, but then the miracle of resurrection at Easter, and the prayer, over 50 days, for the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. And then the church moves through ordinary time....the long season of green which we have just finished last week, where we are called to reflect on the Kingdom of God in everyday life, but all of it moving toward the conclusion. You can see it in the imagery of the Book of

Revelation, or even in the way our hymnal is ordered. And at the end of the year we deal with death and eternal life, the communion of the saints, the return and reign of the Lord, all leading up to today's Christ the King Sunday.....a day which is all about the lordship of Christ.

We heard in the reading from Revelation, he is the "ruler of the kings of the earth." And yet, in our gospel lesson from John, Pilate seems confused as to what Jesus has done and he is also confused as to whether or not he is a king. "My kingdom is not of this world," Jesus says. It seems that he did come upon the earth to establish a kingdom. It's just not what we were expecting.

To understand the kingdom language of Jesus, we have to know something about his context and the leadership structure of that day, and this had everything to do with another leader, King Herod. Herod died the year Jesus was born. Jesus was born in a stable in an out of the way town named Bethlehem. Herod was buried about three miles east of Bethlehem in a massive mountain fort called the Herodium. Jesus' birth, despite the significance we attach to it, was a quiet affair. Herod's burial was just the opposite; he literally had a mountain constructed in the flat desert. He wanted people to think of him and revere him long after he had died.....in fact, you can see the Herodium all the way from Jerusalem, twelve kilometers away. The Herodium is impressive, and a few people of today visit there, but not like the crowds that flow into the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Herod, who ruled for 34 years, was a very powerful leader. His architectural influence is still seen in Israel today. He built the city of Caesarea on the coast, near Tel Aviv; he built Masada, which is an ancient fort and one of Israel's most popular tourist attractions..... and, most curiously, he rebuilt the Temple. A portion of that temple survives today: the Wailing Wall, or the Western Wall, another popular tourist attraction. He was not a religious man, but he used religion for his own purposes. Everything.....sports, art, architecture, shrines, palaces.....all of it was for the purpose of building up of Herod's power and establishing his legacy.

Jesus was born into the kingdom of Herod.....he was born into the time of the mighty King Herod and his legacy. Knowing that, wouldn't it be a good idea to learn from Herod's long running reign? I mean Herod certainly wasn't a very nice guy, but couldn't we at least learn from the way that he ruled. Nice guy or not, he still held a lot of power and he was a very effective leader. But Jesus quickly realized that his way of leadership would not be Herod's. "My kingdom," he says to Pilate, "is not of this world." The temptation of Jesus, of course, would have been to model his techniques, his methods after

Herod, but with a different outcome and goal. This was the temptation of Jesus in Matthew and Luke. The devil takes Jesus to a high mountain, and shows him “all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor, and says, ‘all this I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’”

To follow Jesus is to profess him as Lord. This is the basic Christian conviction and creed. To believe that he is Lord of all is to honor and glorify him, above all else, and above all other rulers and authorities. He came upon this earth to establish the Kingdom of God, an alternative to the kingdom of Herod. He spoke not of the love of power but the power of love. And he clearly gave his presence, his spirit, his authority, to his disciples, to spread his influence, his teachings, his goodness upon this earth until he comes again. And so on Christ the King Sunday, we not only magnify the Lord our King, we are called upon to be a part of establishing the kingdom of God upon the earth. And as Disciples of Christ the King, we are tempted toward two errors in this kingdom work. One is to despair, to give up.....we pray, every Sunday, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” and yet sometimes it seems that not much changes, and so we are tempted to be passive, just watching as the world rolls on by. A second temptation is to use the world’s methods to accomplish a good result.....to believe that the end justifies the means. And so we are tempted to use Herod’s power to achieve Jesus’ intentions. Jesus rejected both of these ways.....to give up or to compromise. If we are doing the work of Jesus, we do it in the way of Jesus. And so leadership in the way of Jesus is always servant leadership.

Why? Because any power that comes to us comes as a gift. Power wielded not for the love of power or the acquiring of more of it, but the power of love in an often broken world. We are reminded of this, and that we are named and claimed as Jesus’ very beloved children. We are his. As we sit here this morning with all of our faults, our anxieties, our struggles, our stresses and our burdens all mixed into the wonderful things that we all do.....never forget that we are his, both now and forever.

As Christians, we may not have a big shiny trophy to lift high as we celebrate a sports championship, but we have something much better. We have something far more precious and enduring than a shiny piece of metal or plastic. The victory on this day of the finals is to know that Christ our King has claimed us as his own and no power in this world can break that relationship. The crosses that we bear on our foreheads remind us that we are his. Instead of a trophy to lift high, we can use our hands, our minds, our feet and our hearts to raise high the power of love that our world so sorely needs.....to raise high the victory of our King over sin and death.....to raise high the knowledge that

the power of love always endures and to point to our champion.....our King. The entire church year has led us to this day. Let us rejoice in it and let us kneel down before our King as we give our heartfelt thanks for his amazing grace. I can't think of a better way to end a season. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### The Prayers of Intercession

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community. Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering. Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of presence, bless those of this community who cannot be with us this morning, and those who walk with them, especially:

***In Residence:*** Margaret; Maria; Stan; Katie; Katherine; Cordelle;

***Needing our prayers:*** Peter; Brenda; Doug; Dorothy; Bill; Bev; Ed; Marilyn; Jordan; Audrey; John; John; Greg; Sam; Katie; Walter; Hart; Frank; Pastor Mike & Patti

***Recovering:*** Katherine; Carol; Betty; Betty; Gary; Greg; Kati; Bill; Sharon; Mary;

And all those we name in our hearts...

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus' reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### Benediction

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life,  
✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**